



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2006

Contact: Jon Cool
517-373-7708

Legislation enacted restricting funeral demonstrations

LANSING – Legislation was signed into law today that allows a permit to be required to demonstrate outside a funeral home, cemetery, mosque or synagogue where a funeral or memorial service is taking place, said bill sponsor Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

“This is a great day for our soldiers, their families and every Michigan resident,” Gilbert said. “This new law will keep families of fallen soldiers from being verbally abused and disrespected during funeral proceedings. It also helps maintain freedom of speech rights.”

Senate Bill 1199 allows local units of government to require protestors to apply for and be issued a permit in order to demonstrate outside a funeral. A permit would not have to be issued if the service is on private property and one may be issued if the service is on public property.

Additionally, the local government may charge a fee for the application and issuance of a permit.

###